

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Oomman, as I told the previous speaker, the drafting of a Bill to amend the present Municipal Regulation is being done. The City Municipal Bill for Trivandrum has been drafted, and the Mofussil Municipalities Bill is under preparation. Your suggestions will be considered.

69. The problems of the Alleppey Municipal Council.

MR. M. S. ANIRUDHAN (*Municipal Council, Alleppey*) at the outset congratulated the Dewan on his appointment and wished him all success in his administration. He said that Alleppey was one of the major Municipalities of the State and was the emporium of trade in Travancore. Under income tax and customs duty, Alleppey contributed the largest share to the public exchequer. The commercial and industrial development of the State was indissolubly connected with the improvement of the Alleppey town, but it was highly regrettable that with all its importance the Government completely neglected the town.

The most important problem to face was the question of water supply to the town. Good water was a rare commodity in the town. The Government had not yet bestowed any serious attention on the subject and the question of water supply was being indefinitely postponed. There was a proposal to supply Alwaye water to the Cochin Harbour. If the Government were prepared to co-operate with the Harbour Board, the Alleppey water supply problem could be easily solved. If there was any difficulty in this, water could be brought from Kottayam or from the Pamba river. The proposed Kottayam-Alleppey road, if opened, would facilitate the working of the scheme to a great extent. The unhealthy and insanitary condition of the town could be remedied only by a protected water supply scheme.

A well qualified Health Officer should be appointed for the Alleppey Municipality, as in the case of the Trivandrum Municipality. The death rate from small-pox, typhoid fever and other infectious diseases was very high in the Alleppey town. Mortality from tuberculosis was also comparatively high in the town. The Municipality was seriously handicapped in undertaking preventive measures for want of proper advice regarding public health and sanitation. In view of the emergency of the matter, the Municipality had appointed, as a temporary measure, a medical graduate, to advise the Municipal Council on matters of public health and sanitation. The Government should appoint a permanent Health Officer in the Municipality at an early date.

For the past three years small-pox had been raging in an epidemic form in the Alleppey town and the neighbouring places. As the outskirts of the town were overcrowded and were beyond the control of the Municipal Council, the sanitary arrangements made in times of epidemics were rendered ineffective. The matter had been brought to the notice of the Government but nothing tangible was done to improve the situation. The existing small-pox sheds, under the control

of the District Hospital, had not sufficient accommodation. In times of need the Municipality had to provide additional temporary sheds. A better and more spacious building should be constructed to accommodate small-pox patients and the small-pox sheds should be removed from within the town limits to an isolated place.

The long promised maternity hospital for the town had not taken shape yet. The question of the establishment of the hospital should be expedited and if it was the want of a Government building for the purpose that stood in the way, the hospital could be temporarily accommodated in a rented building.

A medical survey of the town should be conducted immediately. More than 75 per cent. of the population of the town were subjected to filaria. Since the filariasis survey in Trivandrum had been completed, the work could be conducted at Alleppey.

A Health Unit should be immediately started for the taluks of Ambalapuzha and Shertallai, with Alleppey as its centre. These two taluks were the most unhealthy taluks in the State and were the seat of elephantiasis, leprosy, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

The Alleppey Municipal Council should be invested with powers under the Land Acquisition Regulation to acquire unhealthy quarters of the town to be improved and used as building sites and recreation grounds.

Early sanction should be accorded for the grant of the license applied for by the Municipal Council for the electrification of the town. The scheme, if worked out, would greatly facilitate the development of industries and better the sanitation of the town. The Municipality was prepared to find funds and work out the scheme under the supervision and guidance of the Government Electrical Engineer.

The member next urged the necessity for handing over to the Municipality the Palace maidan. The Municipal town of Alleppey covered only a small area with a high density of population. The Palace maidan, an open space of ground, in front of the local Palace was under the control of the Municipality for many years past and was used by the public as a recreation ground. But, without any reason, the Revenue authorities had walled up the ground to keep out the public from the place. The excuse put forward was that if the place was thrown open for public use, it would interfere with the convenience of the Palace. The member wanted to assure the Government that any such apprehension was quite unfounded and that the Municipality was prepared to convert it into a public garden. He requested the Dewan to inspect the place personally and then decide the matter.

There was another open ground, known as the "recreation ground" included in Survey No. 775 of the Alleppey pakuthi, 4 to 5 acres in extent. In 1897 A. D. the Municipal Council, (then called the Town Improvement Committee) levelled up this place and put up a building from funds collected from the public. Ever since, the public of

Alleppey had been using this place as a recreation ground and as a pleasure resort. But recently, the Revenue Department had leased out the eastern portion of the ground to a private body for a period of 25 years. The Municipality was not consulted at all in the matter. But the Municipal Council and the public of Alleppey had protested against the action of the Revenue authorities in the matter. But it was regrettable that the Government did not take any action in the matter.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Anirudhan, the original intention of Government was that the water supply question for Alleppey should lie over till the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme was completed. At present the Chief Engineer is carrying on an investigation to see whether water can be got from some place within a short distance of Alleppey.

The investigation for the electrification of the Alleppey town has been sanctioned and it is hoped that the report will be ready in a few months.

Matters of public health, opening of a maternity hospital, etc., are those with which your Municipality should be concerned. The Medical Entomologist is carrying on malarial and filarial survey in other parts of the State and he will come to Alleppey in due course. The formation of a Health Unit at Alleppey depends partly on the success of the scheme which is being tried at Neyyattinkara and partly on finances. I hope very much that this scheme will be developed.

I hope to come to Alleppey myself next month and then I will be able to look into the other question that you have raised.

70. Certain urgent needs of Kottar (Nanjnad).

MR. R. BHAGAVATIPERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) first urged the need for removing the cremation ground at Kottar situated on the eastern bank of the Parakkai channel. The cremation ground was situated in a thickly populated place and was a source of annoyance to the inhabitants there. No day passed without a dead body being burnt there. Several resolutions had been passed by the Nagercoil Municipal Council in the matter and the subject was passed at successive sessions of the Assembly also. No further time should be lost in complying with this long standing request.

The member next spoke about the need for removing the fish market from the Kottar Bazaar. This market was also situated in a thickly populated place and was the source of an ever-lasting stench. The merchants and the local inhabitants were consequently put to much annoyance and inconvenience. On account of its insanitary condition, it was the cause of cholera and other epidemics every year. A local inspection would convince anybody of the need for removing this to a distant and thinly populated place and as a matter of fact several officers had recommended its removal. Non-vegetarians who resorted to this market came from distant places and therefore no inconvenience would be caused to them by its removal.